

Message Text

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV, OECD

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - DRAFT 1977 PROGRAM

REF: (A) OECD PARIS 1898; (B) STATE 11657

1. AS MISSION AWARE, THE PROJECT ON POLLUTION CONTROL COST STUDIES IS ONE IN WHICH THE US HAS CONSIDERABLE CONTINUING INTEREST. AS NOTED REFTEL(A), THE PROJECT IS ALSO A HIGH PRIORITY ONE FOR SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS.

2. THERE IS, HOWEVER, AT PRESENT NO CLEAR STATEMENT OF THE FUTURE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT, AND THE SECRETARIAT WILL HAVE TO PREPARE AN APPROPRIATE SUMMARY OF WHAT IS INTENDED AS PART OF THE PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT 1977 PROGRAM. TO HELP IN THIS PROCESS, MISSION IS REQUESTED

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TO PASS ON TO THE SECRETARIAT THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE.

THIS REPRESENTS THE US UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONSENSUS
OF THE DECEMBER MEETING OF THE GROUP OF ECONOMIC EXPERTS--
A CONSENSUS WITH WHICH WE AGREE.

A. SUMMARY. AT THE DECEMBER MEETING OF THE SCEE, CON-
SIDERABLE INTEREST WAS EXPRESSED IN CONTINUING THE OECD'S
EFFORTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLLUTION CONTROL COST
DATA. A TENTATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION AT THAT TIME

CALLED FOR EFFORTS TO SUPPLEMENT THE WORK OF THE WATER
GROUP IN REGARD TO METAL FINISHING, TEXTILES AND PETRO-
CHEMICALS AND TO EXTEND THE COST ANALYSIS TO ONE NEW
INDUSTRY, POSSIBLY COPPER. THIS WORK WOULD HAVE TO BE
DONE IN A WAY THAT WOULD MAKE THE DATA USEFUL FOR OTHER
OECD PROJECTS SUCH AS THE UK PROPOSAL ON THE COSTS AND
BENEFITS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT. TOTAL RESOURCE
REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN ESTIMATED AT TWELVE MONTHS.

B. NATURE OF THE PROBLEM. RECENT WORK ON POLLUTION
CONTROL COSTS FOR THE FERTILIZER, ALUMINUM AND STEEL
INDUSTRIES HAS SHOWN CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE COST
METHODOLOGY AND IN AVAILABILITY OF DATA. FOR THIS REASON
THERE IS INTEREST IN CONTINUING THE OECD EFFORTS IN THIS
AREA. IN DOING SO, SEVERAL OBJECTIVES NEED TO BE KEPT
IN MIND. FIRST IT IS IMPORTANT TO INSURE THAT ANY WORK
ON POLLUTION CONTROL COST BE DONE IN A WAY THAT WILL BE
A MAXIMUM BENEFIT TO ANY PROJECT THAT MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN
REGARDING THE COSTS AND BENEFITS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IM-
PROVEMENT (NOTE THE SECRETARIAT AND UK PROPOSALS IN THIS
AREA). SECOND, THE INFORMATION DEVELOPED IN THESE
STUDIES CAN SERVE AS USEFUL INDICATORS OF POTENTIAL TRADE
EFFECTS THAT MIGHT BE INDUCED BY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS
PROVIDING THE COST INFORMATION IS ACCOMPANIED WITH
AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON THE LEVELS OF CONTROL ACTUALLY
BEING ACHIEVED OR ANTICIPATED WITHIN VARIOUS MEMBER
COUNTRIES.

C. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY. TO DEVELOP POLLUTION CON-
TROL COST DATA FOR SEVERAL ADDITIONAL INDUSTRIES,
SPECIFICALLY METAL FINISHING, TEXTILES, BIOCHEMICALS
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AND POSSIBLY ONE OTHER SUCH AS COPPER. THIS WORK SHOULD
BE DONE IN A WAY AS TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH WORK THAT MIGHT
BE UNDERTAKEN IN OTHER OECD PROJECTS.

D. APPROACH. WORK IS CURRENTLY BEING PLANNED BY THE
WATER GROUP ON THE METAL FINISHING, TEXTILES AND PETRO-
CHEMICALS INDUSTRIES. THE APPROACH SHOULD BE TO COORDI-
NATE WITH THIS EFFORT TO INSURE THAT THE OUTPUT IS AS

COMPATIBLE AS POSSIBLE WITH THE METHODOLOGY BEING FOLLOWED IN THE SCCE COST STUDIES, INCLUDING AN EFFORT TO INCLUDE INFORMATION ON THE LEVELS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL ACTUALLY BEING ACHIEVED OR ANTICIPATED IN THESE INDUSTRIES. THE NEXT PHASE WOULD BE TO SUPPLEMENT THIS EFFORT WITH INFORMATION ON AIR POLLUTION CONTROL COSTS. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THIS SHOULD BE A MINOR EFFORT AT LEAST IN THE CASE OF TEXTILES AND METAL FINISHING SINCE THE AIR POLLUTION PROBLEMS IN THESE INDUSTRIES ARE SMALL RELATIVE TO WATER POLLUTION PROBLEMS. A DECISION TO

COMMIT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO THE PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY SHOULD BE MADE WITH CAUTION. THE COMPLEXITIES OF THIS INDUSTRY RAISE SERIOUS QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER MEANINGFUL COST ANALYSIS CAN BE DONE WITH THE AVAILABLE OECD RESOURCES. FINALLY, IT IS DESIRABLE TO CONTINUE THIS EFFORT BY EXTENDING IT TO ONE NEW INDUSTRY. THE COPPER INDUSTRY IS PROPOSED AT THIS TIME SINCE IT HAS SIGNIFICANT POLLUTION PROBLEMS AND BECAUSE THIS INDUSTRY IS INTERNATIONAL IN NATURE--BOTH FROM A POLLUTION AS WELL AS ECONOMIC VIEW POINT. THE INDUSTRY TO BE STUDIED CAN BE DECIDED DEFINITELY AT A LATER DATE.

E. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT TWELVE MONTHS OF EFFORT WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THIS PROJECT; SIX FOR ROUNDING OUT THE WORK OF THE WATER GROUP AND SIX FOR ONE NEW INDUSTRY. KISSINGER

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